

Approved MINUTES – 3 May 2010

Faculty Senate Meeting

Location: Center for International Education, Sara Spencer Event Hall

Minutes approved as of Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Senators Present: Paula Adams (Library), Becky Becker (COA), Greg Blalock (COEHP), Jan Burcham (COEHP), Josh Eycler (COLS), Bonita Flournoy (COEHP), Pat Hogan (COBCS), Susan Hrach (COLS), Rita Jones (COBCS), Stephanie Lewis (COEHP), Lisa Oberlander (COA), Nick Norwood (COLS), David Schwimmer (COLS), Kimberly Shaw (COLS), Sandra Stratford (Library), John Studstill (COLS), Dan VanKley (COLS), Troy Vidal (COLS), Elizabeth Wurz (COLS)

Newly Elected Senators and alternates present: Tamara Condrey, Glen Stokes, Ellen Martin, Mike McFalls, Dan Ross

Guests present included: Linda Hadley, Cindy Henning, Jay Knape, John Lester, Brian Schwartz, President Tim Mescon, Provost Inessa Levi

Called to order at 3:03pm

Welcome to new Senators.

1. Report from the President and Provost

President Mescon: “This is obviously my first visit with this body since the vote was taken. The message was clear. With some appropriate guidance and input from the vote itself regarding process, communication, listening, pace, and so on, we can move forward. I was pleased with our meeting last week with the Executive Council, which struck a very positive tone in the spirit of cooperation, to benefit our students. I very much appreciate that. I am looking forward to modification of processes that will let future events unfold. I think there will be process enhancement with a lot of these initiatives.”

“I forwarded to Dr. Hrach an email sent to me from the Chancellor regarding budget deliberations. The BOR will meet to review that budget and fix tuition for next year. Until that takes place, we don’t have a handle on the budget for next year. Our formula funding and the combination, how that impacts our financial positioning July 1. The governor did work with stimulus funds, and indicated the impact that the loss of those funds in 2011 will have. The damage, due to reshuffling of these funds, will be much less than we originally anticipated. We did manage for the first time in years get some money in the capital allocation budget, and the money is for infrastructure for information technology on campus. We hope we will begin a collective effort this summer to bring our new classroom building up on the priority list. We are long overdue for a new building – it has been a decade plus since we have had a capital allocation. That will be a faculty design driven process. We need to collectively work on that. We have been out of cycle for many years.

One of the Regents from Cobb County has now moved to Columbus (he works for Synovus). He will continue to be a Regent. Hopefully there will be an advantage there as well for CSU.

There was positive discussion about potential joint participation at the national AAUP meeting in June in Washington, DC, as well as re-launching the Shared Governance documents and group.

Senator Hrach: Executive Committee proposed this as a way of increasing faculty participation. It was proposed that we start with the 2007 proposal as a starting place for a new organizational scheme for governance. We proposed that that this be at least one place that we can begin discussions, including potential changes to Senate, perhaps morphing into a University Senate. The second idea proposed was a response to the job description of Faculty Executive Assistant to President. This would be a 2-course release position, part of Cabinet. We offered feedback at the Senate meeting last month, stating we preferred that that person be chosen by faculty.

Executive Committee proposed that the next Senate Executive Committee was a structure already in place, could be used instead. As a workable plan, the Executive Officer is (currently) getting one course release. Would move this to 2 courses, he/she would then attend those meetings of the President's Cabinet. Or responsibilities could be shared around with Executive Secretary and the others, as deemed appropriate. President Mescon suggested we include Staff Council President and SGA President, as more voices at the table. We appreciated that the suggestions were adopted as proposed.

Provost Levi: I just wanted to say to the body here, my position in terms of commitment to work jointly with the faculty for improving working relationships, for the betterment of the University, for our students. I also would appreciate an opportunity to continue working with you.

Comment: The earlier discussion wasn't quite clear – Executive Officer would be representative to President, instead of Exec Assistant?

President Mescon: The role as President's Executive Assistant didn't resonate with any group. We have put the old document aside. This discussion led to engagement in Cabinet, an ongoing contribution throughout the year, a voice representing this body. That really was the goal, which made sense.

Comment – this would have to be voted on by senate.

Comment - The purpose of the Senate is to advise the President. Except for attending meetings, that doesn't change what already exists as mandate of senate in bylaws.

Question: Bylaws also say Executive Officer gets one course release? Response: No. That would be an official change. Most chairs honor it, but a few do not – especially in fall semester. If someone feels it is important to amend bylaws to make these changes, I would entertain a motion to do so.

Comment: Based on my experience, a few extra meetings are what exec officers do. I don't see anything new.

Comment: I think the whole virtue of this is that it builds on what exists, so we don't need to vote to build on what is self evident.

Comment: Let me make sure everyone understands – the Executive Officer will have a 2 course reduction for taking on ordinary responsibilities plus extra to increase faculty engagement, or will share the reduction with the secretary.

Provost Levi: To support the integrity of this process, we will have the money available at part time faculty rate. We will need to talk to chairs in short order to incorporate this.

Question: Who is going to decide whether secretary gets the release?

Response: Executive Officer decides whether to do these responsibilities alone or to share. If they take it on alone, they are justified in getting 2 releases.

Comment: Secretary could get release, take minutes to release to faculty. Others are there taking minutes already.

Comment: Minutes for those meetings always posted, so that we can find them. But this would allow for stronger feeling of contact.

Comment: Seems reasonable enough – just like having things spelled out as much as possible.

2. Announcements from the Senate Executive Officer

- Remind you that you were sent a link to the faculty handbook changes. You are encouraged to share it with colleagues. There is a list of committee members to send comments to. Please take a look.

- Will be sending attachment or link to final report from Performance and Engagement Task Force soon. Final report received. Senate should read through the document, make proposed changes to timeline to implementation, ways to align department and college standards, to be made to incoming Executive Committee. This will permit a springboard for early Fall semester, allow a timeline for the faculty to ratify it. It will be hard over summer to finish that job, but if we have some dialog then we will be ready to start in Fall. Provost Levi: wanted to say that she was truly gratified by the commitment of faculty about increasing standards of performance, and was impressed with faculty commitment. She expressed her personal gratitude to task force, who did a lot of work, including analysis of policies across state.
- Remind everyone that we have 2 new dean searches that will begin shortly. Be prepared for potential inclusion on search committee. The administration is waiting until we see budget for next year before beginning searches. The composition of committees for Dean Searches is listed in statutes in article 3.
- Be aware that as a System initiative, we have a renewal of Alternative Dispute Resolution, which is underway. We have a committee, who has appointed a task force of students, student affairs, staff, and faculty. The task force will review policy and recommendations made. This will be brought to Senate for approval. Will look for steering committee nominees. Members that will eventually serve on this group will receive training from System Office.
- Followup might be in order from branding report. There is a committee on domain name change. Jay Knape reporting. We are starting to move forward, and will handle communication to the campus community of what is underway. Goal – make it clearer who we are.

Comment: Back to handbook. AAUP will, upon request, review any handbook to determine if congruent with principles. Senate may wish to consider this service.

3. New Business

a. Introduction of new Senators

Almost everyone in place, with a few alternates. Introductions ensued.

b. Committee on Committees report

Compiled all faculty responses. Looked at balance between colleges, institutional and faculty senate committees. Tried to take into account COLS larger faculty. With early retirements, if you see some one you know is retiring, please inform committee.

Distributed two handouts.

In some cases, we had to appoint people when there were no volunteers. In order to keep things going, this was needed.

Comment: May need to change budget advisory committee – senate positions.

Comment: You will need to get with SGA regarding student positions.

Comment: Activities – Mathew Isaacson no longer here at CSU.

Comment: Suggest sending document to committee chairs before finalizing.

Comment: A few people got forms in late, as well.

Comment: Procedurally, I suggest that we make any corrections we are aware of, then move to approve. If committee wants to send to chairs, that's fine. Then send to VPAA, who can make further changes as needed. Ready when we come back in fall.

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Comment: Joyce Hickson retired (library)

Motion to approve list made by Senator VanKLEY, seconded by Senator Becker. Motion passes.

c. Tower Day scheduling

We were getting feedback on Tower Day. One big item is that students and faculty had problems being able to get out of class to see presentations. This has been presented at Deans Council: change next year's academic calendar to have a free day to showcase this, and make it during week of honors convocation. Does mean shifting schedule. Is there interest in this kind of day so that we can all attend?

Question: Will convocation be a different day? Response: Preferably. But I'm open to other ideas.

Comment: Issue with labs that run through the week – impacts a whole section of lab. Starting lab midweek might make you lose two weeks. Won't reduce contact time. So this is a logistical issue.

Response: Do all of the major activities on one day, with smaller events on other day.

Question: Is there a reason convocation must be Friday – probably since it has fewest classes. Parents attending?

Response: Those getting awards should be recognized at Convocation – might not happen if Tower Day and Convocation on same day.

Question: What if Tower Day at beginning, Convocation at end of the same week? Research Day is almost all day. Need to have that for presentations.

Question: Are you also considering moving student writing to same day? Response: Depends. It was a lot to do in one week. A lot of the same people are there for all of these things.

Comment: A lot of students are involved – the week was a mess for those students. I understand that the week is important, but it's really hard on the students.

Question: Should we have a day reserved in schedule? Is it worth it to rearrange schedule, or should we do what we did this year?

Comment: I thought it was good, albeit confusing. Seemed to work better for students this time. Problem moving back and forth between campuses. Have ideas to address this, but need to know about calendar first.

Question: Does anyone anticipate a large outcry if we insert a day?

Comment: Part of me says students won't go anyway. Try for a year, see how it goes, revisit it next year.

Comment: Seems to be worth trying.

Comment: Can put heads together to improve participation next year.

Comment: Writing seems to do well since intro classes offer extra credit.

Comment: Take it back to our colleagues to see how it impacts them.

Comment: But academic calendar needs to be decided quickly.

Comment: Send email from senators with further feedback.

Comment: Semester would start on Thursday... handout with proposed schedule.

Comment: Why can't we add at end? Giving finals and graduating before finals.

Comment: Starting on Thursday is confusing. Adding to end preferable.

Comment: Had to set graduation already – Civic Center availability.

Comment: What CH needs is general approval of adding a day to calendar, in way that makes best sense in spring semester.

Dr. Henning can write up plan, can then do electronic approval of details.

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Senator Eyer moves, Senator Norwood seconds, the idea of adding one day.

Comment: Advocate taking it to colleagues for more input.

Motion passes.

For further comment – email Cindy Henning.

d. Election of Officers for the 2010-2011 Faculty Senate

Before the election, there are two issues to decide.

One is that we need to formally approve the recommendation of election committee to include alternates. The idea in general was raised in the Fall because some of us may or may not have complete control over class schedules, last minute issues, and there are some months we are at risk of not having a quorum. It was suggested that we might have a formal system of subs or proxies so that Senate business can continue, and so that those attending can conduct that business. Asked the election committee to formulate a written policy to put this in place.

Their original proposal is that alternate members:

- should limit alternate senators to one year terms
- always attend Senate meetings
- only vote if a representative from college is absent that day
- if alternate for one year, and that person chooses to run again next year, will only then be elected for a 2 year term (in order to not violate 3-year term limit of statutes).
- How alternates are elected is up to each college.

Comment: My understanding is that if you come on to finish a term, you can then be elected for your own term.

Comment: Election after an “alternate” may violate current statutes.

Comment: Current policy states that you have to have a year off after your term – but in some instances, after you fill in you can be elected for your own term.

Question: Would probably need for standing senators to specifically contact alternate so that we know who is voting, as well as the executive officer or the secretary. Shouldn't they attend every time, to be aware of issues? Response: Would be ideal. Question: As elected alternate, they may not know unless specifically informed, about whether they are voting or not. What do we do if someone leaves early, arrives late?

Comment: I suggest that the alternate votes only if notified, and the Executive Officer is also notified.

Question: Other recommendations?

Comment: If senator knows in advance – can notify alternate to act as proxy, and notify secretary.

Comment: Need 2/3 approval vote to amend bylaws.

Comment: To clarify: One alternate per college?

Question: Should library have an alternate? Response – they do.

Comment: If you do the 2 year term, could conceivably have everyone rotate off at the same time.

Comment: Like to amend recommendation to remove 2 year term portion.

Comment: It was just an idea to keep in accordance with current policy, but if senate doesn't mind it, we can modify recommendation.

Question: And if 2 senators from the same college want to miss, they have to duel it out?

Comment: Obviously there will be other absences, but this will help.

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Question: Why let colleges determine it? Can do runner up, or other mode. But this rule would allow dean to appoint someone.

Modification: Each election unit will choose according to usual senate election procedures.

Senator Norwood moves, Senator Jones seconds that we accept the modified proposal from the elections committee: Alternate Senate Members will

- be elected to a one year term as alternate
- should always attend Senate meetings
- are only vote if a representative from their College is absent that day, and the absent Senator has notified the Alternate as well as the Executive Officer and/or the Secretary.
- Each election unit will choose alternates according to their usual Senate election procedures.

Motion passes unanimously.

The second issue to resolve is who is eligible to vote for officers today. The elections committee recommends that, as with last year, all outgoing and incoming senators both allowed to nominate and vote for senators in these elections. This required no change in bylaws.

Elections:

Executive Officer:

nominated Senator Van Kley and Senator Stokes

Senator Stokes chosen.

Secretary: Senator Shaw

Exec committee at large nominations: Senators VanKley and Jones

Committee on committees: Senator Studstill remains on committee, will serve as Chair; Senators Eyler and Adams now on committee. (Joyce Hickson, listed on Library Committee, is now retired).

Elections committee: Senators Sprayberry, Flournoy, and Vidal

Request to new elections committee that they consider whether we should hold elections earlier next year, in order to allow teaching schedules to accommodate for senate meetings.

Budget committee: Executive officer + one other. Senator Jones chosen.

Comment: I wish to extend a resounding thank you to this years' officers.

Comment from Dr. Hrach: It has been a pleasure working with everyone, and she is looking forward to being in audience next year.

Adjourn at 4:31.

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